

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 10-11 and 14 have been amended in the application. Currently, claims 1-4, 8, 10-11, 14 and 16 are pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner cited Boykin et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0042048) in a 35 USC 103(a) rejection in this office action. However, this reference was not listed on the PTO-892 form that accompanied this office action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner please list this reference on a supplemental PTO-892 form so that the public can be easily informed of this patent, when acting on this amendment.

Claim 11 was objected to because of the following informalities: the Examiner stated that the claim recited "rewriting said retracted selector information", but the term "retracting" was replaced with "saving" previously in the claim.

By this amendment, the phrase "rewriting said retracted selector information" in claim 11 has been amended to "rewriting said saved selector information". Therefore, it is respectfully

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

submitted that this objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Verbakel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,090). Also, claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Verbakel et al. in view of Stefik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,012). Also, claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Verbakel et al. in view of Saito (JP 9-55069). Further, claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Verbakel et al. in view of Saito, Boyken et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0042048), and Stefik et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks below.

The present invention relates to a method of recording to a recording medium on which digital data is recorded, a data reproducing device and a data recording device which are involved in reproducing and recording of digital data, and a data reproducing method (see page 1, lines 7-10 of the specification).

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

A first recording medium 100 has a content data storage area 110, a selector storage area 120, and a retrieved-information storage area 130.

The content data storage area 110 is an area containing a plurality of content groups. Herein, the content group refers to an assembly of one or more pieces of content data. In the example of Fig. 1, the content data storage area 110 contains N content groups, as shown with a content group 1, content group 2, ... and content group N. Each of the N content groups conforms to the same specification and form. Each of the content groups stores each content data in a form conforming to the SD-AUDIO specification (see page 9, lines 10-20 of the specification).

The selector storage area 120 contains a selector 121 as an information recording area for designating one specific content group among the N content groups stored in the content data storage area 110. In addition to this, the selector storage area 120 may contain a content data list 122. The content data list 122 is information concerning each content data contained in each of the plurality of the content groups stored in the content data storage area 110.

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

The content data list 122 may contain part or all of the following items. Namely, the content data list 122 may contain the total contents number 122a, the content groups number 122b, and a content list 122c.

The total contents number 122a refers to the total number of pieces of content data stored in each of the plurality of the content groups in the content data storage area 110. The content groups number 122b refers to the total number of content groups N ($1 \leq i \leq N$). The content list 122c refers to a list of content data contained in each of the content groups.

The retrieved-information storage area 130 is an area for storing information needed when a data reproducing device or a data recording device extracts each content data stored in the content data storage area 110, the selector 121 stored in the selector storage area, and the like. This information includes a record address and size (see page 9, line 21 - page 10, line 19 of the specification).

By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups".

Also, independent claim 8 has been amended to recite "a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups".

Also, independent claim 10 has been amended to recite "a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information".

Also, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite "the content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information". These features are not shown or suggested by Verbakel et al., Stefik et al. Saito and Boykin et al.

Verbakel et al. relate to a method for storing audio-centered information with a multi-level Table-of-Contents (TOC) mechanism and doubling of AREA-TOCs, a device for use with such mechanism and a unitary storage medium having such mechanism (see col. 1, lines 11-14). Verbakel et al. also relate to a unitary storage produced by the method, to a storing device arranged for practicing such method, and to a reader or player device arranged for interfacing to such storage medium (see col. 1, lines 39-42).

Verbakel et al. also disclose that as shown in Fig. 5, item 124 represents a MASTER_TOC that may be configured according to standard procedures and pertains to subsequent items Stereo AREA 126 and Multi-channel AREA 128, and if necessary also to Extra Data AREA 130 (see col. 4, line 64 - col. 5, line 1).

Verbakel et al. do not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 1.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of said recording medium inserted into said slot; a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from said selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced as claimed in independent claim 8.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 8.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose that a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 10.

Verbakel et al. also do not disclose the content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit the amendments to the claims in the present invention clearly distinguish from the cited references so that the recording media of the present invention stores a plurality of content groups and selection information to select one content group.

In col. 5, lines 31-62 of Verbakel et al., the master TOC is described in detail. However, as discussed above, the master TOC

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

of Verbakel et al. is different from the selector information of the present invention.

For these reasons, it is believed that Verbakel et al. do not show or suggest the present claimed features of the present invention. Applicants also submit that Stefik et al. do not make up for the deficiencies in Verbakel et al.

Stefik et al. relate to the field of distribution and usage rights enforcement for digitally encoded works (see col. 1, lines 24-25).

Stefik et al. disclose a fee accounting mechanism for reporting fees at a time of distribution and use of digital works.

Stefik et al. also disclose that the usage right is attached to a digital work and shows how the digital work is used or further distributed.

Stefik et al. do not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 1.

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

Stefik et al. also do not disclose a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of said recording medium inserted into said slot; a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from said selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced as claimed in independent claim 8.

Stefik et al. also do not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 8.

Stefik et al. also do not disclose that a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 10.

Stefik et al. also do not disclose the content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 14.

For these reasons, it is believed that Stefik et al. do not show or suggest the present claimed features of the present invention. Applicants also submit that Saito does not make up for the deficiencies in Verbakel et al. and Stefik et al.

Saito relates to an MD recorder/player to expand the function so as to record PCM audio data or the like.

Saito discloses that a special data (e.g. non-compressed PCM audio data, etc.,) except the standard data (compression data by ATRAC) is recorded on a part or whole of a recording medium, or

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

the special data is reproduced from the part or whole of the recording medium (see abstract).

Saito does not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 1.

Saito also does not disclose a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of said recording medium inserted into said slot; a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from said selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced as claimed in independent claim 8.

Saito also does not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 8.

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

Saito also does not disclose that a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 10.

Saito also does not disclose the content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that an UTOC (user TOC) of Saito is different from the selector information in the present

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

invention because the UTOC of Saito does not select one content group in the media.

For these reasons, it is believed that Saito does not show or suggest the present claimed features of the present invention. Applicants also submit that Boykin et al. do not make up for the deficiencies in Verbakel et al., Stefik et al. and Saito.

Boykin et al. relate to music distribution, and in particular, to a method, apparatus, and article of manufacture for electronically distributing music (see page 1, paragraph [0004]).

Boykin et al. disclose an apparatus to reproduce an audio file in a reduced quality.

Boykin et al. also disclose a user identifier to identify a user who has purchased an appropriate key so as to reproduce audio file in a higher quality. The user identifier is stored into the respective audio file.

Boykin et al. do not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 1.

Boykin et al. also do not disclose a selector acquiring section which acquires selector information of one directory name from a selector storage area of said recording medium inserted into said slot; a selector updating section which changes the selector information acquired from said selector acquiring section, in conformity with a content group to be reproduced as claimed in independent claim 8.

Boykin et al. also do not disclose a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; and a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups as claimed in independent claim 8.

Boykin et al. also do not disclose that a content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name, a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups, and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 10.

Boykin et al. also do not disclose the content data storage area which stores a plurality of content groups conforming to an identical form and having a respective directory name; a selector storage area which stores selector information of one directory name for designating one of said content groups; and a retrieved-information storage area which stores information including a record address needed when a data reproducing device extracts said content group and said selector information as claimed in independent claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that Boykin et al. disclose neither a recording media storing a plurality of content groups nor selector information. Further, the user identifier of the present invention corresponds to one content group among a plurality of content groups. Therefore, it is possible to reproduce only one content group in correspondence with a user as described in page 25, lines 14-25 and page 28, lines 18-25 of the specification.

Application No. 10/559,939
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2009
April 6, 2009

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Verbakel et al., Stefik et al. Saito and Boykin et al., individually or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention and it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these references to render the present claims obvious.

In view of foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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